

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/730,019	MATSUURA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sherali Ishrat	2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 12/14/2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 6-10 (renumbered as 1-5).
3. The drawings filed on 09 December 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/073,873.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 2/8/05 & 12/14/04
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Michael E. Monaco on March 15, 2005.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 2, lines 1-4, delete "based upon and claims the benefit of priority under 35 USC §120 from US Serial No. 10/423,911, filed April 28, 2003, 10/175,838, filed June 21, 2002, U.S Patent No. 6,577,812, issued June 10, 2003 and U.S. Patent No. 6,459, 816, issued October 1,2002" insert -- a divisional of U.S serial no. 10/423,911, filed on April 28, 2003 now U.S Patent 6,714,685, which is divisional of U.S serial no. 10/175,838, filed on June 21, 2002 now abandoned which is divisional of U.S serial no. 09/630,600, filed on August 1, 2000, now U.S Patent 6,577,812, which is divisional of U.S serial no. 09/073,873, filed on May 7, 1998, now U.S Patent 6,459,816 --.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance of claims 6-10. The present invention is an image processing system and method. Independent claims 6 and 10 identify distinct feature "quantizing the transform factor for the edge

area and the transform factor for the non-edge area by different methods and a total number of bits of the high frequency component and a number of bits of the low-frequency is the same regardless of types of the edge area or the non-edge area and a number of bits of the high frequency component for the edge area is same as number of bits of the low frequency component of non-edge area". The closest prior art to kimura et al. (US 5,818,974) shows producing a transform factor including high-frequency component and a low frequency component, determining an edge area or a non-edge area based on the transform factor, quantizing the factor for the edge area and for the non-edge area and Wantanabe (US 5,729,633) shows entropy encoding the quantized transform factor but fail to anticipate or render the above limitation obvious when taken singularly or in the combination.

Communication

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SherAli Ishrat whose telephone number is 703-308-9589. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Au Amelia can be reached on 703-308-6604. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ishrat SherAli

Patent Examiner

Group Art Unit 2621

March 15, 2005



AMELIA M. AU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600